

ST 7 87
also via
my 7
11

Command

ISSUE #10

SEPTEMBER 10, 1976

The new Nuclear Destruction game is starting and this is your last chance to enter it; there are 12 player countries assigned plus one country open to be picked up (actually, I can add more if I need to). The first deadline is 9/24/76 so if you want to play, send me \$1. and a self-addressed stamped envelope before then.

Wooden Ships is going to be run as a tournament; the first section has already started. We are playing scenario 5 using the basic rules plus full sails, backing sails and ammunition types. There is only one opening left and the winning teams will play each other. More details appear under game openings.

I have just been introduced to Avalon Hill's The Stock Market Game and have found it to be a really excellent game that would be well-suited to postal play. There are no die rolls and moves are simultaneous. We would need at least five people to run a section.

I have been getting more and more phone calls lately along with requests for the phone numbers of other players in the games. I think it would be a good idea if I were to keep on file the phone numbers of all players in case someone wants to get in touch with you at the last minute. Also, if you would like me to call you collect should I not receive your moves, let me know; while I wouldn't want you to depend upon this method for getting all of your moves in this way, I do know how easy it is to let a deadline slip by now and then.

I've been asked again to submit COMMAND for evaluation by the IDAEC (the IDA committee that evaluates Diplomacy zines and publishes a list of acceptable publications). As in the past, I am going to decline, but I think I should outline my reasons for those of my subscribers who may have been wondering why COMMAND does not appear on IDAEC's acceptable list.

First, let me point out that I am not a member of the IDA. No one has ever explained to me exactly what the IDA does or why it would be to my advantage to join it. This is not to say that they don't accomplish valuable work for the hobby; they probably do. However, the only aspects of it that I have seen are the in-fighting amongst its leading members and the ego-building politics of the more vocal of the group. True, they sponsor the annual DipCon, but after DipCon VIII, more space was devoted to accusations about who shafted who out of what than was devoted to the play at the tournament. I think a little public relations work is in order here gentlemen, to show us how the hobby is being served.

My main objection to the IDAEC is the fact that they don't really evaluate; they investigate a zine by a set of mediocre standards that even BIG BROTHER could pass and then list it as acceptable. While I think I do a fairly decent job on COMMAND, I don't feel it is as good as IMPASSABLE. On the other hand, the lack of reading material and irregular publishing schedule of TETRACUSPID

doesn't show the same time and effort that I put into these pages. BREWHON, on the other hand, shows a creativity that I have seen nowhere else. Yet the IDAEC would give all four of these publications the exact same stamp, acceptable. Every zine in the hobby has some faults; if they are to be improved they must be pointed out. To me, this is what evaluation is for.

I also object to the way the evaluations are run. How was this committee formed? Who is on the committee? What are their qualifications? For whose benefit is this list being compiled?

I have 54 people who say my publication is acceptable and they have all backed up that statement with cold, hard cash. (I don't know how 54 compares with other zines that have been around less than a year but my guess would be it is pretty high - especially since my present sub rates are one of the highest around). It is these 54 that I must please, not the IDAEC.

If I had my way, evaluations would be made by the publishers, "the backbone of the hobby" as they have often been called. Let a questionnaire be circulated that really asks some questions and have each publisher rate these zines he trades with. For the purpose of the evaluation, one-shot trades could be set-up to increase its scope. I think all of us are ethical enough to give a fair evaluation. If people are worried about adverse publicity affecting their circulation, the results need not be published for the general public. After all, this shouldn't be a popularity contest, it should be a powerful tool for self-improvement.

I invite other publishers who read this to print it and add their comments ***

So much for that. Finally, I want to say something about stand-by moves. I have two players who can make moves on the spot for nmr's (my wife Bernadette and Rich Marcell). When you miss a turn I will try to have them submit stand-by orders and I will then ask one of the people on the stand-by list to sub-

mit orders for the following season. I will only replace you if you miss two in a row (you can still maintain your position if you contact me immediately) or if you miss several seasons over a few game years. Replacing a player is a delicate business and I will try to be fair. But you owe it to the other players to get your moves in on time. I am always willing to extend deadlines if there is a good reason for doing so.

1975IV COM1 Winter 1905

England build F London
A Edinburgh

Turkey build A Smyrna
A Ankara

COA Robert A. Granville
Box 7238
College Station
Williamsburg, Va. 23186

PRESS
(via Smyrna) Speaking of the newsmakers in briefs, Sultanna Myrna, recently returned from her nautical exploits, expressed passionate gratitude to the Cypriots for harboring No Resentments, the latest addition to the Turkish Navy.

Spring 1906 due 10/1/76

1(&% 1975IW COM2 Spring 1904

England F St. P.(NC) holds
(Lakofka) F No Sea S F Picardy to Bel
F Irish to Mid-Atlantic
F Eng Channel S F Iri to M-Atl
F Mid-Atlantic to Portugal
F Picardy to Belgium
A Gascony to Paris

France F Port S ITAL F Spa to M-Atl
(Young)

Germany F Baltic to Denmark
(Blank) A Paris to Burgundy
A Munich S A Berlin to Sil
~~A Silesia to Warsaw~~
~~A Prus S A Ber to Silesia~~
A Berlin to Silesia
A Livonia to Moscow

A Sil → War (S by A Prus)

ITALY F Spain(SC) hold
(Speisell) F Rome to Tyrrhania
F Gulf to ...
F Naples to Apulia
A Marseilles S F Spain
A Venice holds
+stand-by orders submitted by
B. Beardsley

Austria F East Med to Smyrna
(Birsan) A Tyrolia to Bohemia
A Vienna S A Tyr to Boh
A Galacia S A Tyr to Boh
A Rumania S A Galacia
A Bulgaria S A Greece
A Greece S A Bulgaria
A Budapest S A Rum (NSU)

Russia A War S A Ukr to Mos*
(Loemis) A Ukraina to Moscow
+ret Ukr

Turkey F Black Sea to Con
(Bumpas) F Con to Smyrna
F Aegean S F Con to Smy
A Sev S RUSS A Ukr to Mos

Fall 1904 due 10/1/76

1976F com4 correction

One of Austria's orders was mis-
read last time creating errors in
the positions of Italy and Austria.
The following are the corrected
positions.

Austria A Munich to Tyrolia
(Anderson) A Bud to Trieste
A Vienna S A Mun to Tyr
A Ser S A Bud to Tri
A Rum to Galacia*ret Bud,OTB
F Bul (SC) holds

Italy A Try S A Tri*ret Boh,Ven,OTB
(Luchs) F Tunis to Ionian
A Tri S A Tyr*
*ret Alb,Ven,OTB

retreats and Fall 1903 due 10/1/76

COA Jeff Anderson
2009 19th St. #5
Santa Monica, CA 90405

1976G COM5 Fall 1903

England F Edinburgh S A Lon-Wal*
(Vanden Bos) XXXXXXXXXX
A London to Wales

Edinburgh
44 OTB

France
(Anderson) A Gascony to Spain
A Picardy to Burgundy
F Eng CH to Atlantic
A Wales to Liverpool
F Irish S A Wales to Liv
(A Bel had retreated Pic)

Germany A Munich to Burgundy
(Johnston) A Kiel to Holland
F Belgium holds
A Ruhr S F Belgium
F North Sea to Norway

Italy A Pied S FRENCH A BUR to Mor
(Kerins) F Tus to Gulf of Lyon
F Wes Med to Mid-Atlantic
F Tyrr to Wes Med
A Vienna S Tyrr A Gal
A Venice to Trieste
A Greece holds

Austria F Albania holds
(C.D.)

Russia A Sev to Armenia NMR+
(Mitchell) A Ukr to Sevastopol
A Moscow S A Ukr to Sev
F Sweden to Norway
A Warsaw holds

+stand-by orders submitted by R. Marcon

Turkey page 5
COA Jeff Anderson
2009 19th St. #5
Santa Monica, CA 90405

PRESS
(Rome; by Nosey Newsley) His Head
Machoness praises the new Germany
ruler for his effective liberation
of Belgium. Further it was learned
by this reporter that Manco is
planning a visit to London in the
near future. This visit will cement
the budding treaty between England
and Italy.

Manco is still annoyed at the
lack of Russian initiatives to deal
with the Eastern Question (Turkey).
It is rumored that Manco is very
disturbed, that Turkey is visiting
in Budapest. Budapest has a very
large Italian population. All aid to
these Italians will be given. If
Turkey does not remove itself from
Budapest, war may come.

(Paris) As many of you have noticed, my moves this turn are a complete stab of the English player. Before you all decide that for all ensuing games I can't be trusted and must be finished off, let me say this in my defense. If I would have continued to support England in the defeat of Germany, I would have gained only one more center; Munich. The English player insisted on having the rest. The end result? England would have had nine units to my seven and great position on me. And the way Russia is running over everything out East there was no guarantee England and Russia wouldn't unite and crush Italy and me easily. (If Italy didn't join their side.) I even had an unnamed source tell me the two had an agreement going from a previous game. All in all, it seemed very unlikely in the first place that England should want to attack such a powerful country that far away. Worse yet, England wouldn't even deny such an agreement was in going, but told me instead, if I didn't like the way things were going and mistrusted him, I would have to "put an army in Liverpool, or go along with him". So, given the choice, I took getting an army in Liverpool.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENG NY, LON, EDI (2) constant
 FRA 3 home, POR, SPA, ~~PAR~~, LIV
 (6) constant
 GER 3 home, DEN, HOL, ~~BER~~
 (6) build 1
 ITA 3 home, GNE, TUN, TRI, VIE
 (7) constant
 AUS (0) OUT
 RUS 4 home, SWE (5) constant
 TUR 3 home, BUL, RUM, SER, BUD
 (7) build 1

Winter 1903 due 10/1/76

CONF7 US Diplomacy Fall 2003

White NJ-Del
 (Matias) NY-NJ
 Vermont-NY
 Conn S Ver-NY
 NH-Vermont

Green Montana-Idaho
 (C-Conn) NY-NJ Ver-NY (Ind)

Wyo S Me
 Neb-Calif
 Ill-Miss
 Wisc S Ill-Miss (Imp)

Yellow NC S Tenn
 (Kerins) W Va S Tenn
 Tenn-Va
 Ala-Tenn
~~Mississippi~~ Miss S Ala A Lou
 Maryland S Tenn-Va

Black A Louisiana holds
 (C.D.)

Red Ida S Utah-Wyo
 (Lowery) Utah-Wyo
 Col S Utah-Wyo
 Texas-Louisiana
 Ark S Texas-Lou

Blue Penn S Ken-Ohio
 (Lebens) Ken-Ohio
 Del-Md.

PRESS

(Yellow Press Services)

The United Nation's Command's proposal for a joint effort against the hated Greenpeople is accepted with a warm welcome. Long have the Yellow tribes sought the fertile lands of the inhuman Green. Should the United Red Nation be honest in their proposal, then all that is needed is a sign of good will. The Yellow peoples remember the hard battles against the viscious Blacks. There we and the Red Nations fought as one. The sign of good will on the part of the Red Nations would be to allow the Yellow peoples to occupy with the support of the Red the land of the Louisiana. In return the Yellow will, with the aid of the White tribes join the battle against the Green sects.

(N.Y.) The Mystic Mage has gone into a temporary retreat, The leader of the northern barbarians Thor Bullheadson will be answering his mail for a short while to come.

The remainder of the US Diplomacy press will be printed next issue.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

Black LA, XXX, OKLA (12) const
 Yellow TENN, ALA, GA, mo, fla, va,
 misso, ~~W/V~~, md, W VA, nc
 (6 1/2) constant
 Red NEV, UTAH, ARI, col, ida,
 TX, ARK (6) build 1
 Green MINN, IOWA, SD, wyo, nd,
 mich, mon, wis, nebr, misso
 (6 1/2) constant
 Blue PA, W/V, W, ken, del, OHIO
 (3) constant
 White VER, NH, MASS, ny, conn, ri
 maine, nj (5 1/2) constant

Winter 2003 & Spring 2004 due 10/1/76

 1976G continued

Turkey F Ankara to Armenia
 (Young) F Bla Sea S F Ank to Arm
 A Gal to Silasia
 A Rumania to Galacia
 A Budapest S A Bul to Rum
 A Bulgaria to Rumania

COM 9 NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION PRESS

(London) After last month's surprise announcement of the Royal Navy, Her Majesty's government is announcing fiscal closure of all naval and air bases. However, we again reiterate that at present there are no plans to devalue the pound.

(Peking) After failing to meet our ultimatum of last month, we advised that a state of war exists between The People's Republic of China and the insufferably foolish gamewaster.

(Geneva) World Health Organization officials say that they have also noticed the decline in world population. Their study shows that there have been similar declines in populations of all the countries in the world. At present WHO officials refuse to comment on the possible causes.

(Paris) To insure the stability of the franc, we are today shipping 24 bottles of vermouth to Ceylon in trade for 40 kilos of coconut pulp.

(Tel Aviv) Even the grim prospect of receiving mere paper pounds for

our price has halved our demand for re-opening the Suez Canal.

(Cairo) The Zionist controlled money managers of Wall Mall need not think that mere words will force us to re-open the Suez Canal.

(London) Her Majesty's Government wishes to explain that her interest in Brazil's Economic Growth stems from our desire to negotiate a loan.

(London) After the scrapping of the RAP following the foreclosure of all of its airbases, the British Government has put up Gibraltar for sale to the highest bidder. All interested parties may submit their sealed bids to Bottom-Of-The-Barrel Enterprises, which is currently supporting the British Economy. The Government wishes to re-affirm their statement that there is no, repeat, no plan, at present, to reevaluate the Pound.

(Peking) After last month's declaration of war, all of China's missiles were fired at Newark, NJ. However, post-impact reconnaissance revealed no appreciable difference created by the multiple direct hits, except that it was reported that some of the smog was blown away by the blasts. China is now mobilizing its 500 million man army.

(Lisbon) The Portugese Government wishes to congratulate the United States of America for landing a space craft on Mars. We send our condolences to France upon the failure of their attempt to send a manned Renault to Marseilles.

(Damascus) After intensive investigation of the Syrian government announces the perpetration of a terrible war crime by Israel. Last Dec. 25, an Israeli F-4E fighter bomber intercepted and shot down Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, thereby causing Santa Claus to crash and burn. He is not being held for interrogation in Tel-Aviv.

(South Pole) The sovereign state of the South Pole declares war on the bourgeois fascist imperialist aggressor nation of the North Pole. If Santa comes this year, we will

not hesitate to shoot down even with our Mark 10XX Deathray Missiles. 10,000 armed penguins are making their way north.

(North Pole) A toy factory has been sold to Japan in exchange for 3000 king size lollipops.

(Kampala) The chief of state gave a speech here last night, blasting away at a number of major powers. He accused Germany and France of having a secret alliance, despite France's earlier disclosure that no diplomatic relations existed. He accused Canada of uncalled for interference and imperialism in the affairs of Spain and remarked that the CIA gave away incorrect spy results about some countries, notably those in which ~~there~~ there is a significant U.S. investment. He also claimed that the Soviet Union reports outright lies in its secret and public dispatches. When this reporter asked for proof about these allegations none was offered.

1976V CON10 Fall 1902

Russ F Sweden was incorrectly listed as an Army last issue.

French E A Burg ret to Paris

Germany
(Bayma) A Ruhr to Belgium
A Burg S A Ruhr to Bel
A Denmark holds
F Belgium to Holland
F Kiel S F Bel to Hol

Russia
(Watson) A Sev to Ankara
F Blk Sea C A Sev to Ank
A Arm S A Sev to Ank
F Rum S AUST A Ser to Bul
F Sweden S F Norway
F Norway S F Sweden

France
(Lebens) F Picardy to Brest
A Par S F Pic to Brest
A Marseilles to Burgundy
* ret Gas, Spain

Turkey
(DeCook) A Bulgaria to Rumania
A Con to Ankara
F Smy to Aegean
* ret OTB

Italy
(Schults) A Piedmont to Marseilles
A Gulf of Lion S A Lied
to Marseilles

F ~~London~~ West Med
A Paris holds

England A Brest holds NMR+
(Mitchell) F North Sea holds
F Eng Ch S A Brest
+ Standby orders submitted by R Marcell

Austria F Greece S A Ser to Bul
(Spiegel) A Albania to Serbia
A Vienna holds
A Serbia to Bulgaria
A Budapest to Rumania

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENG 3 home, BRE (4) build 1 remove
FRA ~~XXX~~, PAR, ~~XXX~~, SPA(*) (3) ~~XXX~~ 1
*If A War ret Spain
GER 3 home, BEL, DEN, HOL (6) build 1
ITA 3 home, TUN, MAR (5) build 1
AUS 3 home, SER, GRE, BUL (6) build 1
RUS 4 home, ROM, SWE, NOR, ANK
(8) build 2
TUR CON, SMY, ~~XXX~~, ~~XXX~~ (2) constant

WINTER ~~IXX~~ 1902 due 10/1/76

PRESS

(St. Petersburg) When Anita Quickie next appeared, in the grand throne room of the Winter Palace, it was with two rather large and handsome blonds, one on either arm.

"What 'cha doin'" she said to Czarina Clarina, who sat on her throne absorbed in a piece of paper she was reading.

"Why reading this poem by the European"

"Oh, I see," said Anita, not really caring. She pushed her two escorts forward. "Look what I got" she said proudly, "two Norwegians."

On cue, the two lummoxes flashed toothy smiles.

"This is Klaus" Anita tapped one on the shoulder, "and this is Jurgen"

"Ja, hello dere queenie, pleased meet you, I sure. Vere we come from, ja, in de old country, ja is big thing to meet da queenie, ja certainly is."

Czarina Clarina squinted her pretty little eyes in wonder. "Accent, huh?" she asked Anita.

Anita smiled and nodded her head knowingly. "South Oslo" she said, winking.

"That explains it," the Clarina said. "By the way, Anita, I've been meaning to ask you about Norway."

"Oh you have?" Anita said a bit nervously.

"Yes like; who ordered the invasion?"

"Invasion? Oh yeah, invasion. I think it was Popoff."

"Why?"

"Just greedy I guess"

"You didn't have anything to do with it?"

"Heavens no!" Anita emphasized too emphatically. She squeezed Klaus' arm. "But aren't they scrumptious? Why I'll let you have Klaus here."

"Ja, vell I would be proud there, queenie ..."

"No thanks," Clarina cut him short. She remembered that Starsky and Hutch was on that evening. "Why don't you three run along. Call Hardnutz and Popoff in as you go please."

The three left, Anita chortling in excitement, only to be replaced by Admiral Popoff and General Hardnutz. The two faced each other, ~~as~~ scowling, until Popoff giggled.

"Nyah Nyah we build fleets and not armies."

"Cool it Bozo, before I break your face." Hardnutz was not in a very good mood that day.

"Look gentlemen, let's get down to business. Now look, now that we have Norway I expect we should try to hold it correct?"

They both nodded.

"Now what about down south?"

Popoff proudly produced a pillow. "Turkey feathers milady, from the since blown-away Turkish fleet."

"Oh excellent!" She clapped her pretty hands together (careful not to scratch her nail polish). "You, Hardnutz, get the cranberry sauce, and you Popoff, get the punkin' pies."

"What about the stuffing?" they cried in unison.

"That," she smiled wickedly, "we'll get in Ankara."

The remainder of 1976V press, including European part II, will be printed in the next issue

1976BT COM12 Fall 1902

The fall 1902 deadline has been extended to 9/20/76. I will notify all players of the moves in a separate mailing.

1976DD COM13 Winter 1901

England build F London
(Lebens) F Liverpool

France build A Paris
(Fabry)

Germany build A Munich
(DeCook) A Kiel

Italy build F Naples
(Luchs)

Austria build A Budapest
(Bowman)

Russia build A Sevastopol
(Johnston) A Warsaw
F St. Petersburg NE
(south coast)

Turkey build F Smyrna NBR+
(Silko) +builds submitted by R. Marcel

Spring 1902 due 10/1/76

1976DP COM16 Fall 1901

England ~~EXXXXXXXXXX~~
(Johnston) F Norwegian to Norway
A Yorkshire to Wales
F North Sea S GER A Ruh-Bel

France F Picardy to Belgium
(Cook) A Burgundy to Marseilles
A Marseilles to Spain

Germany A Kiel to Denmark
(Trembley) A Ruhr to Belgium
F Holl S A Ruhr to Belg

Italy A Pied to Tyrolia
(Vie Brooks) A Venice to Trieste
F Apulia to Ionian

Austria A Serbia to Rumania
(Luchs) A Bud S A Ser to Rumania
F Albania to Greece

Russia F Bothnia to Sweden
(Marcell) A Galacia to Vienna
A Ukraina to Rumania
F Sev S A Ukr to Rum

Turkey A Bulgaria to Rumania
(Fabry) A Armenia to Sevastopol
F Ankara to Black Sea

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENG 3 home, NOR (4) build 1
FRA 3 home, SPA (4) build 1
GER 3 home, HOL, BEL, DEN
(6) build 3
ITA 3 home, TRI (4) build 1
AUS 771, YIE, BUD, RUM, GRE
(3) constant
RUS 4 home, SWE, YIE (6) build 2
TUR 3 home, BUL (4) build 1

Winter 1901 due 10/1/76

PRESS

(Rome) In a mood of jubilant solemnity Our Lady of the Bubbles, a neo-Romanesque Cathedral, the first to be built since the Restoration, was consecrated and opened to the public. Officiating at the ceremonies were the Pontifex Maximus, Paisano, I, First Consul Pompous, and Proconsul General, Julius Marius.

After a splendid High Service, the Pontifex tendered a most edifying Dissertation on the life and sufferings of Santa Lambrusca, patron saint of carbonated beverages to whose name the new structure will serve as an everlasting memorial. Following his holiness' speech, Consul Pompous made the startling announcement that the Gypsies had bewitched his once staunch friend, the king of Austria, into madness. For this reason, Troops of the Republic were dispatched to the frontier to make a general reconnaissance of the situation there, and to restore the King to his senses if possible.

Proconsul Marius then moved to the head of his Legions, vowing to bring the surly Zoltan back to Rome in chains. As the trumpets blared, the Pontifex applied the torch to a thirty pound effigy of Maria Oueras-sica, and the Soldiers of Rome

(Berlin) In a dramatic reversal the government today released the French Ambassador, Baron Proogle, who was arrested eight days ago on a morals charge. A formal apology was issued by the Foreign Ministry to the French Government, and the explanation was given that the Ambassador had been mistakenly identified as a gypsy. In an unrelated development, The Kaiser called for a restoration of diplomatic relations with the Austro-Hungarian Empire M and an end to the Portugese embargo. Turning now to soccer, the top-ranked Munich Eagles were shut out six-zip in a startling upset by the underdog Silesian Ferrets.

(London-Rome) May the ghost of Nero set fire to your bed.

1976?? = 19760Z COM 18

Spring 1901 due 10/1/76

COM15: Wooden Ships and Iron Men

BRITISH:
Walter Blank commands America,
Befford, Adament, London
David Kinsfather commands Royal Oak,
Europe, Prudent, Robust

FRENCH:
BoB Beardsley commands Neptune,
Duc de Bougogne, Conquerant, Provence
Rolf Luchs commands Ardent, Jason,
Eveille, Romulus.

Turn 1 movement phase

BRITISH
Adament= 1 Royal Oak= 1
America= 1 Europe= 1
Befford= 1 Prudent= 1
London= 1 Robust= 1

FRENCH
Neptune= R Ardent= 1
Duc de Bougogne= R Jason= 1
Conquerant= R Eveille= 1
Provence= R Romulus= 1

Turn 1 combat not possible

Full end phase from Turn 1 combat
to Turn 2 movement due 10/1/76

GAME OPENINGS

Diplomacy COM19: entered: Beardsley, Fabry, Powers, Roswurm, Trembly, Johnson. COM20: entered: Johnson, Vie Brooks.

Wooden Ships entered: Brooks, Vie Brooks, Heinewski. This game will also be scenario 5 using the basic rules plus full sails and ammunition types. Turns will be divided into two sections; unfouling and movement will be due on the first deadline; grappling, boarding preparation, combat, melee, load, full sails are due on the second deadline, etc.

Origins + Bourse Blank, Vie Brooks, and Trembly entered.

COM17 NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION #2

Player countries and populations:

Australia 70	India 78
Brazil 72	Japan 72
China 80	Russia 74
England 66	Spain 68
France 66	Turkey 70
Germany 66	USA 74
Pakistan* 70	*open

All player countries start with 9 fac, 10 ABM, 20 missiles, \$100.

Minor countries (population= 20 ea)

Argentina	Kuwait
Belgium	Lebanon
Cuba	Mexico
Denmark	Mongolia
Egypt	Norway
Estonia	Oman
Finland	Panama
Guatemala	Portugal
Hungary	Romania
Ireland	Rwanda
Italy	Uruguay
Jordan	Sweden

All minors start with 1 fac & 10 mis

All moves must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you miss a turn you still owe me a stamp.

If this box is checked you owe the \$1.00 game fee ☐

You are playing _____

Turn 1 due 9/24/76

Please keep your press short!

game review: Kingmaker (AH)

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

by Bob Beardsley

Kingmaker is a simulation of the War of the Roses, wherein two royal houses (York and Lancaster) battled it out to make their royal heirs sole king of England. Previously published in England by Philmar, Avalon Hill now publishes the game in the U.S. A multi-player game (for two to seven), Kingmaker attempts to combine tactical wargaming with elements of Diplomacy (alliances, backstabbing etc.) It succeeds on both counts to a certain extent.

The game, which is literally raved about in Avalon Hill's General and SPI's Strategy and Tactics, does have some heretofore unpublished drawbacks. No wonder, both companies are trying to sell it.

Kingmaker oozes with historical flavor. The players control nobles such as Mowbray and Percy, royal heirs like Henry VI, Margaret of Anjou, and Richard of whatever. Forsooth, you can control towns like Canterbury, manipulate ships and Flemish mercenaries, and be wiped out by the plague, all at the same time. You can award titles to your untitled nobles, dole out offices such as the Warden of the Northern Marshes (there are no Southern Marshes?). All this has meaning (thank goodness) in the game infrastructure and is interesting in itself. But Caveat Emptor, Kingmaker isn't all roses.

The game misses on two counts: its mapboard and the high level of chance associated in its play. In regard to its mapboard: SPI says "richly designed;" Avalon Hill says "a work of art;" this writer says "be careful."

Over 100 counters are placed on the small board during the course of the game which tend to obscure the map itself. It's an annoyance moving counters looking for the ~~xxx~~ small print of the town's and castle's names (which is important and done quite often ~~xxx~~ during the course of the game). One gets the feeling that Avalon Hill reduced the size of the mapboard from the original, as they did with Diplomacy. ~~XXXXXXX~~ Yea and verily, small packages can ruin good things.

Another annoyance is the noble markers, which are simply the noble's coat-of-arms on a round disc. With 23 nobles, it was amazing how many coats-of-arms look alike. You can spend time just trying to locate your nobles (or moving the wrong ones) if you're not careful. AH could have solved this problem by printing the name of the noble on the piece.

Some players may find the level of chance in Kingmaker to be a bit too much. Basically, what each player plays with is a function of luck. There are two decks of cards in the game. The Crown Deck contains the nobles, titles, offices, ships, towns, archbishops etc. The game begins by dealing a number of cards to each player. From that point on, you draw one card each turn to add to your goodies. It's possible that an unlucky player may never be a factor in the game because of the cards he draws.

The other deck of cards is called the Event Deck, which is similar to Chance and Community Chest in Monopoly. Here the cards indicate plagues, summon nobles back to their own castles, bring ships into ports and do other nasty things to your plans. One event card is picked during each player's turn, and everybody has to follow it. The best tactician in the game can be ruined by an event, or the worst player may find great opportunities (or vice versa) through the draw of these cards.

If you don't mind the element of chance, Kingmaker is a multi-player game with good possibilities. You can make alliances (in fact, you have to if you want to win) and there is skill in assigning certain offices to certain nobles to get maximum use from them. You can also trade certain things (ships, archbishops, mercenaries and others) to your advantage. The game is interesting in its simplicity, and at the advanced level it takes on a complexity which adds to the play and challenges your abilities. Knowing its advantages and disadvantages, it's up to the gamer to decide for himself to buy it or not.

Will the following people please submit stand-by moves: Bob Beardsley for Italy 1975IW, Ron Kelly for England 1975IW, Walter Blank for Russia 1976G, Rolf Luchs for England 1976G, Jack Kerins for England 1976V, Andy Gock for Austria 1976V, Ron Kelly for Turkey 1976DD, Ken Silko for France 1976BT

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Subs are presently 12 for \$4.00 (when I lower my rates
all subs will be pre-rated). Game fees are \$2.50 plus sub.

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